

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~An access authentication system is provided for authenticating access for~~  
~~visitors~~ To gain visiting access to a wireless local area network (W-LAN), the  
operator of which administers a visitor authentication, ~~authorisation~~  
authorization and accounting (VAAA) server, ~~a~~ [[. A]] user requesting ~~visiting~~  
such access ~~to the W-LAN, is required to~~ must have a valid cellular mobile  
account, a portable computing device with a browser and a valid W-LAN card  
from another operation that administers a home authentication, ~~authorisation~~  
authorization and accounting (HAAA) server. The user, ~~on requesting visiting~~  
~~access to the W-LAN,~~ inputs, via the VAAA server, identity information that  
enables the HAAA to issue a personal identification number (PIN) which is  
encoded and forwarded, ~~preferably by way of a short message services (SMS),~~ to  
the user's mobile telephone. This encoded PIN is transferred to the browser to  
authenticate the requested visiting access ~~to the W-LAN,~~ and the costs  
~~associated with~~ of such access are billed to the user's cellular mobile account.  
The [[, the]] requested access [[being]] is achieved via the user's browser. The  
user may employ the browser to convey the identity information~~[[,]]~~ to the VAAA  
via the W-LAN, or via the mobile telephone. ~~to the VAAA. Alternatively, the~~  
~~user may call the VAAA on the mobile telephone to provide said identity~~  
~~information in which case, the subject telephone call is preferably forwarded to~~  
~~the HAAA via a premium rate call unit.~~